THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

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Barbara Bosworth: Photographs of Sacred Ohio Indian Mounds
July 29 - September 25, 1988

Modern farmers, builders, and developers have put the ancient burial mounds of the Adena and Hopewell Indians to their own uses, recorded in Barbara Bosworth's provocative photographs of these sacred sites in the Ohio Valley. Fifteen of her color and gelatin silver prints, taken since 1984, will be on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art from July 29 through September 25, 1988.

Bosworth documents the peaceful, if ironic, coexistence of the mysterious, undulating earthworks, consecrated by Native Americans two thousand years ago, with agriculture, housing, utility lines, and even modern places of burial. Sensitive to the landscape, she captures farmyards, golf courses, or cemeteries, as well as somewhat eerie views of abandoned archaeological excavations in now-wooded sites. Her favored formats are 8 x 10" black-and-whites with subtle grays, or 15 x 19" color prints with bright rich greens. Too vast to capture with Bosworth's view camera at her chosen middle distance, some scenes are printed as "diptychs"--8 x 20" contact prints from two 8 x 10" negatives; in one of these Bosworth impresses the observer with the immense scale of the mound by including children at play.

Reared in Novelty, Ohio, Bosworth was educated at Bowling Green State University and received her M.F.A. in photography in 1983 from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. She rekindled her childhood fascination with the burial mounds while she was a visiting instructor at Ohio University

in Athens. In 1985, largely because of these works, she was awarded the prestigious Friends of Photography Ruttenberg Fellowship. Bosworth has exhibited throughout the United States and abroad. The works in this show, the fourth Gallery D photography exhibition of 1988, were selected by the Museum's curator of contemporary art, Tom Hinson.

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For more information, photographs, or color slides, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.